Which was not half so beautiful and kindj You have added worth unto't, and lively lustre [3]3 And entertain'd me with mine own device [4] ; I am to thank you for it.

I *LstDY.* My lord [5], you take us even at the best[6].

APEM. 'Faith, for the worst is filthy; and would not hold taking[7], I doubt me.

TIM. Ladies, there is an idle banquet Attends you[8]: Please you to dispose yourselves.

3 — LIVELY lustre,] For the epithet—lively, we are indebted to the second folio : it is wanting in the first. STEEVENS.

4 — mine own device;] The mask appears to.have been designed by Timon to surprise his guests. JOHNSON.

5I *Lady,* My lord, &c.] In the old copy this speech is given to the 1 *Lord.* I have ventured to change" it to the 1 *Lady,* as Mr. Edwards and Mr. Heath, as well as Dr. Johnson, concur in the emendation. STEEVENS.

The conjecture of Dr. Johnson, who observes, that *L.* only was probably set down in the MS. is well founded; for that abbreviation is used in the old copy in this very scene, and in many other places. The next speech, however coarse the allusion couched under the word *taking* may be, puts the matter beyond a doubt. MALONE.

6_ EVEN at the best.] Perhaps we should read :

« — *ever* at the best." So, Act III. Sc. VI. :

" *Ever* at the best," TYRWHITT.

** Take us even at the best," I believe, means, * you have seen the best we can do.* They are supposed to be hired dancers, and therefore there is no impropriety in such a confession. Mr. Malone's subsequent explanation, however, pleases me better than my own. STEEVENS.

I believe the meaning is, " You have conceived the fairest of us," (to use the words of Lucullus in a subsequent scene,) you have estimated us too highly, perhaps above our deserts. So, in Spenser's Fairy Queen, b. vi. c. ix.:

ft He would commend his guift, and *make the best"*

M ALONE.

7 —would not HOLD TAKING,] i. c. *bear handling,* words which are employed to the same purpose in King Henry IV. Part II. :

"A rotten case abides *no handling."*

STEEVENS.

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